

NOVEMBER 1995

OPEN ARMS

VOL. 7 NUMBER 11

..... MICHIGAN'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

PLACES FOR WIMMIN

staff

We really needed to get away; something relaxing, a slower pace, the great outdoors, these were our desires. After some consideration, we decided a weekend in Northern Michigan was just what the doctor ordered. After perusing the ads in *The Lesbian Connection*, the decision was made. The Labrys Wilderness Resort, in Honor, Mich, which is about 40 miles southwest of Traverse City was selected. The resort consists of four small cabins, in a forest setting, on a small lake. We only needed to take food and linens. Everything else was supplied in the cabin.

The car was packed Friday morning, and after a quick breakfast, we were on our way. The sun was shining and our spirits were high. We drove up into Michigan on US-31, which follows Lake Michigan north, and is called the scenic route. And it is that. We left the main road in Manistee and drove a mile to the beach to have our lunch that had been packed for that purpose. Due to the fall weather, the beach was nearly deserted, with only two other cars in the parking lot. We parked facing the lake and watched the brisk wind force five and six foot waves towards us to crash and break upon the shore.

All to soon, we were on the road North again. Mother Nature was capricious, and before long the sunshine turned to rain. The rain soon became hail that covered the road, and there was even something that looked suspiciously like snow beating against the windshield. By the time we reached our destination, She had relented somewhat, and settled for a steady misting rain.

Nell and Rebecca, our hostesses, had a fire burning in the stove and the cabin was wonderfully warm. We unloaded the car and made ourselves at home. The cabin we stayed in was aptly named Bluebird, because every morning we saw a bluebird in the trees just outside the cabin. It rained all that night, but the next day brought lots of sunshine and blue skies. After a leisurely breakfast, we began to explore our surroundings. It is beautiful up there. Lots of trees, birds and wildflowers. There is also a one mile hiking path, nearby, to get to Lake Michigan.

The weekend just flew by. We were well rested but just a little saddened when the time came to pack up and head home. One nice thing to remember though, it is only a short five hour drive from here in South Bend.

for additional information: Labrys Wilderness Resort, 4115 Scenic Hwy, Honor, Mich. 49640 (616-882-5994)

More places for wimmin:

Deerpath Lodge, P.O. Box 849, Saugatuck, Mi. 49453 (616-857-DEER)

Drift-Woods Cottages, near Saugatuck, Mi. (616-857-2586)

Duneswood, P.O. Box 457, Glen Arbor, Mi. 49636 (616-334-3346)



The *Open Arms* staff would like to take this opportunity to thank the many wimmin who have contributed to the ongoing success of this newsletter. Your many subscriptions, business advertising, submissions of articles and stories, and especially your donations of time and money to produce and print this newsletter have enabled *Open Arms* to assist some of our Sisters in Need.

With your support, *Open Arms* has been able to contribute to Camp Sister Spirit in Mississippi, The Kay Gardner Trust Fund, Redwood Records, and most recently, a local sister who has had excessive medical bills and no insurance. Again, thank you for all your help.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

VIDEO NIGHT

The Butcher's Wife

Demi Moore stars in this film about a woman with ESP. Lesbian characters have good roles

in this flick.

7:00 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 10th

Call for directions

616-695-7311

3RD FRIDAY OUT

The Oaken Bucket

1212 S. Ironwood Dr.

Mishawaka

Friday, Nov. 17th, 7:00 p.m.

For reservations, call Jackie by Wednesday,

Nov. 15th, at (219)-291-5837

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday

7-9 p.m.

For info, write:

LSG

P.O. Box 1612

Mishawaka, IN 46544

SUNDAY BRUNCH

North Village Mall

11:30 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 12th, 1995

Call 271-0338 for reservations by Wed., Nov. 8th

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Jackie (219)-291-5837

Video Night: Gloria & Julie (616)-695-7311

Sunday Brunch: Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Sheree (616)-684-6365

Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

Advertising: Kaye & Marcia

Subscriptions: Kaye & Marcia

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier.

Thanks.

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Nov. 3-12 The 15th Chicago Lesbian and Gay International Film Festival, 312-384-5533

Nov. 3-5 The Experience Workshop, Cincinnati, OH, 1-800-966-3896

Nov. 18 Lesbian Health Conference, Columbus, Ohio, (614)-481-7656

Mountain Moving Coffee House

Nov. 4 Mary Waitrovich

Nov. 18 Julia Penelope

call (312)-477-8362 for information

Concerts in Indianapolis

Nov. 4, 5 & 10 Suzanne Westenhofer

Dec. 9 Cris Williamson, Tret Fure

Feb. 1-4, 8-11, 1996 Judith Sloan's, "Denial of the Fittest"

Call: 317-637-2906

Olivia Cruises

Nov. 4-11 Ixtapa

Apr. 8-15, 1996 Grand Caribbean

Jun. 25-Jul. 3, 1996 Alaska

call 1-800-631-6277 for information

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

You can meet friends everywhere, but you cannot meet enemies anywhere - you have to make them.

Back To School

by Lee Lynch

Talking with an editor recently we discovered we both attended the same junior high school. The coincidence came to mind when I heard about the Back To School Campaign. It's such a simple idea I couldn't believe no one had thought of it before. Gay people, writing to teachers and school principals to tell them we'd been among the students in their schools.

Dear Ms. Barbieri: You were my guidance counselor at Hetero High. Remember all those times you told me what an underachiever I was? Remember you talked to my parents and none of you could fathom what was wrong with me? Ms. Barbieri, I was gay. Imagine how much I could have achieved if I'd been able to study instead of hiding, lying and worrying.

The editor I talked with graduated about five years later than me, and missed adventurous Jen, androgynous tough Danny-Donna, gentle, smart Laurence, and that lovable big sissy Mark.

All of us were locked away from one another in frightened, confused silence. Danny-Donna dressed in drag and traveled to other neighborhoods to date girls as a boy. I was sick every morning before school, terrified of my peers. Jen got in trouble a lot. I can't imagine what those poor boys went through.

The Back To School Campaign is the brainchild of Kevin Jennings, the man who co-chaired the commission which brought enlightenment about gay kids to educators in Massachusetts. Jennings is Executive Director of The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN - pronounced glisten) which works to improve the atmosphere for gay students in American schools. He endured what Laurence and Mark did, went on to graduate from Harvard, and has devoted his career to educating the educators.

Kevin Jennings says stories were pouring in before the campaign mailed out 26,000 brochures. One woman wrote a former teacher about how affirming the teacher had been. The teacher had been thinking of quitting until reading that letter. They've met since. The teacher is staying, recharged by the contact.

When he lectured in schools Jennings was told that issues of gay youth might be a problem in New York City, but don't exist in, say, St. Louis. The letters serve to debunk that theory. Plus, says Jennings, it's a lot harder to vote against someone you know or to listen to the lies of a Jessie Helms when you find out little so-and-so was gay and grew up to found and edit a newspaper. GLSTN will also approach politicians with actual letters to say, "Let me tell you what's really going on in your schools."

Too many of us know exactly what's really going on. Gentle Laurences are still being tortured with anti-gay epithets. Danny-Donnas still live double lives because they don't know how else to be themselves. Eighth graders still mince down the halls behind Marks, mimicking delightfully sissy ways. Jens still drop out of school because being themselves means being in trouble.

Dear Ms. Barbieri, I want to thank you for helping me when my parents found out I was gay. You noticed that I felt too ill to study or pay attention in class. You helped me talk about what was going on at home without treating me like a criminal. You gave my parents information that helped them understand me.

That's the letter I want today's students to be able to write when they're editing newspapers and writing columns.

GLSTN, 2124 Broadway #160, New York, NY 10023, 212-387-2098,
GLSTN@aol.com

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Self-Esteem

When a woman believes that she is equal, she is called uppity. When we stand up for what we know and for what we believe, we are called aggressive and unfeminine. When we state that women are wonderful and that we are proud to be a woman, we are told that we are anti-male.

When we put forth our perceptions, we are told that we don't understand reality. When we put forth our values, we are told that we are crazy and we just don't understand the way the world works. Is it any wonder that we sometimes have trouble with self-esteem?

From "Meditations For Women Who Do Too Much"
Anne Wilson Schaef



COURT OF FRIENDS

SINGLES

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

The Court of Friends

P.O.Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120

(Be sure to include your address.)

Your **identity** will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. *COME ON SINGLES! Someone special wants to know you're out there!*

38 Hi, I am looking forward to hearing from you. I am honest, gentle, loving and full of enthusiasm. I enjoy conversation, church, movies, music, reading, dancing, the beach, and spending time with that special someone in my life. I am feminine and considered attractive by my friends. I enjoy the simple things in life. I'm in search of someone between the ages of 26 - 40 with similar characteristics and interests. I prefer a non-smoker, non-drinker. Let's begin with friendship and take it from there.

39 It has been said that "good things come to those who wait." I am tired of waiting! This 37 year old has a passion for life. My interests are varied and include music, movies and

bowling. I am an open, honest, loving person. I believe in romance. I am secure with who and what I am. I am considered attractive but outer "beauty" is not important to me. I do not play head games or do one nighters.

I would like to meet someone who has a positive personality, likes to laugh, and is looking for a possible relationship. She must be secure enough with herself to be able to accept me as I am. You see, I am comfortable in jeans or dresses, denim or lace. I like giving roses as well as receiving them. I can be quite shy or very assertive.

Do I interest you? If so, I would love to hear from you.

40 Non-smoker, social drinker, 35 years, with 1 child seeks female friendship and possible relationship. If you're tired of being alone and not too afraid to start all over, let's get together and see what happens.

41 Attractive 55 year old lady is looking for a mature, honest relationship. I'm 5'3", ash blonde, blue eyes, freckles. My interests include anything outdoors, golf, music, sports, quiet dinners. Prefer non-drinker, no drugs. Would like to meet a lady 40's plus. No bi's or playgirls, please.

42 I am 30 yrs. old. I have been employed 8 1/2 yrs. with a millwork corp. I enjoy listening to and performing music. I like sports and am very mechanical.

I would like to meet someone sensitive, kind, and caring with a good personality. Someone sharp minded and easy going.

43 Sensible, professional, fun-loving lesbian, looking for same! If you are adventurous, kind-hearted, thirty-ish, and enjoy life, I've been looking for you for a long time!

What you are is more important than what you've got.

LOCAL CANDIDATES SURVEYED ON LESBIAN/GAY RIGHTS

Penny Hughes, of the St. Joe Valley NOW chapter, surveyed the local politicians using questions sent by the Tri-State Alliance, a political group of lesbians and gays. Please consider these responses from the candidates when you vote.

Cheryl L. Little: Treat a lesbian/gay city employee no different. Businesses, companies (including religious companies) should not fire someone because of sexual orientation. Emergency response personnel should receive sensitivity training for lesbian/gay issues. South Bend should have a policy against sexual orientation discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and education. Doesn't know what is meant by registration of domestic partners and granting employee health benefits for lesbians/gays. No answer to sexual orientation information being available in schools. Agrees with lesbian/gays rights to maintain custody of children.

Dona Hall: Treat a lesbian/gay city employee no different. Businesses, companies (including religious companies) should not fire someone because of sexual orientation. Emergency response personnel should receive sensitivity training for lesbian/gay issues.

Peter A. Myers: Treat a lesbian/gay city employee no different. Businesses, companies (including religious companies ?) should not fire someone because of sexual orientation. Emergency response personnel should receive sensitivity training for lesbian/gay issues. South Bend should have a policy against sexual orientation discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and education. Agrees with the registration of domestic partners and granting employee health benefits for lesbians/gays, sexual orientation information being available in schools and with lesbian/gays' rights to maintain custody of children.

Thomas Zakrzewski (6th District): Treat a lesbian/gay city employee no different. Businesses, companies (including religious companies) should not fire someone because of sexual orientation. Emergency response personnel should receive sensitivity training for lesbian/gay issues. South Bend should have a policy against sexual orientation discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and education. No opinion on registration of domestic partners, agrees with granting employee health benefits for lesbians/gays, opposed to sexual orientation information being available in schools. Agrees with lesbian/gays rights to maintain custody of children.

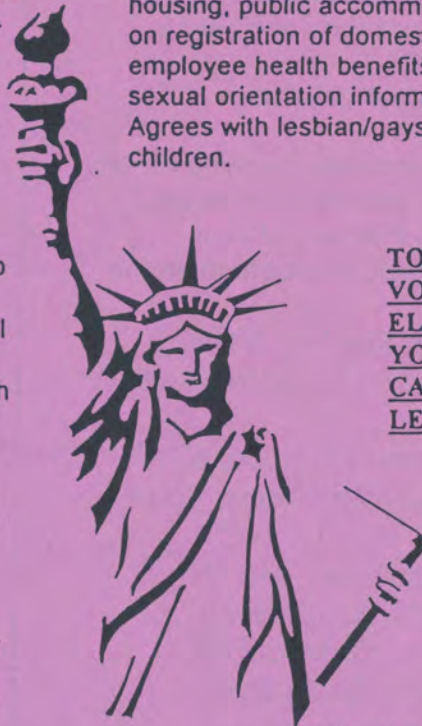
Michael C. Waite: Treat a lesbian/gay city employee no different. Businesses, companies (including religious companies) should not fire someone because of sexual orientation. Emergency response personnel should receive sensitivity training for lesbian/gay issues. South Bend should have a policy against sexual orientation discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and education. Opposes registration of domestic partners, agrees with granting employee health benefits for lesbians/gays, more info on sexual orientation

information being available in schools. Agrees with lesbian/gays rights to maintain custody of children.

Andrew Greta: Opposes any and all legislation that supports discrimination based on sex, race, sexual orientation, etc..

Marvin Woods: Not sure how he would treat a lesbian/gay city employee. Not sure what businesses/companies (including religious companies) policies should be regarding sexual orientation. Not sure if emergency response personnel should receive sensitivity training for lesbian/gay issues.

William Muichowski: Treat a lesbian/gay city employee no different. Not sure what businesses/companies (including religious companies) policies should be regarding sexual orientation. Not sure if emergency response personnel should receive sensitivity training for lesbian/gay issues. South Bend should have a policy against sexual orientation discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and education. Not sure on registration of domestic partners, not sure on granting employee health benefits for lesbians/gays. Supports sexual orientation information being available in schools. Agrees with lesbian/gays rights to maintain custody of children.



TO THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE
VOTING IN YOUR LOCAL
ELECTIONS, OPEN ARMS URGES
YOU TO BE AWARE OF HOW
CANDIDATES STAND ON
LESBIAN/GAY ISSUES

MICHIANA MOMAZONS

Momazons is a support group which is forming in the Michiana area for lesbians desiring children through alternative insemination and/or adoptions and with children from marriages. We meet on a monthly basis. If you are thinking about motherhood, trying to get pregnant or adopt, or already are a lesbian mother, you may be interested in participating in our group. We provide support, information sharing, resource options and great storytelling about our individual experiences as we pursue motherhood. Contact **MOMAZONS of MICHIANA** P.O. Box 1002, Niles, Michigan 49120

Available from Womankind Books, 5 Kivy St., Huntington Sta., N.Y. 11746 (516-427-1289): Lesbian Parenting: Living with Pride and Prejudice, Katherine Arnup, ed. This book answers many legal, social and emotional questions. A perfect primer for lesbian parents and a helpful resource for their families and friends.

Consumer Information from TLC (The Lesbian
Committee of NOW)

Each month The Lesbian Committee intends to survey 8-10 similar businesses or services in your area in order to identify those businesses that are lesbian/ gay friendly. We will then make the list of businesses who responded within the deadline, and those who did not, available to the local lesbian/gay newsletters. In addition, TLC will compile an annual directory of lesbian/ gay-friendly businesses and distribute it to local lesbian/ gay organizations.

First woman doctor in England, Lesbian James Miranda Barry, born 1795, earned her medical degree from Edinburgh College while still in her teens and lived as a man all her life." (*Lesbian Lists*)

This month we polled physicians regarding their views about lesbians and gay men as employees and clients. We asked the usual questions and sent a SASE for easy reply. .

1. Do you welcome lesbians and gays at your business?
2. Would you hire a person who was qualified for an open position if you knew they were lesbian or gay?
3. If it came to your attention that one of your patients was lesbian or gay, would you treat them the same?

Yes to all three: Dr. Ellyn Stecker, 6319 University Commons, South Bend
Dr. Candace Corson, 6319 University Commons, South Bend

Dr. Etta Nevel, 515 N. Lafayette, South Bend
Dr. Jane Werth, 515 N. Lafayette, South Bend

No Reply: Dr. Nina Barbour
Dr. Sandra Brown
Dr. Ana Cardenas
Dr. Nancy Deflauch
Dr. Ann Dilla
Dr. Gail English
Dr. Dawn Fairley
Dr. Patricia Jordon
Dr. Nancy Keller Madden
Dr. Jennifer Lackman
Dr. Sharon Lynch-Miller
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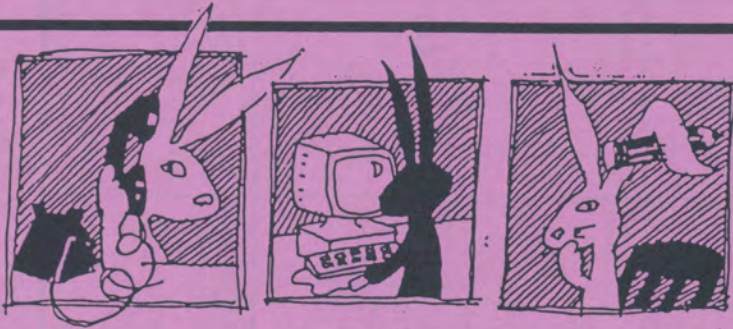
Women-owned firms jump 18%

Between 1991 and 1994 the number of women-owned businesses jumped 18% and they now hire more workers in the U.S. than Fortune 500 companies do globally. Sales by women-owned businesses total \$1.38 trillion annually. Women are expanding beyond traditional retail trade and service companies. Between 1991-and 1994 the number of women-owned construction firms grew 19.2%, transportation and communications were up 19.5%, and manufacturing growth averaged 14.3%, according to Dun & Bradstreet Information Services.

The national study found "women-owned businesses are as financially sound and creditworthy as is the typical firm in the U.S. economy". It defines women-owned businesses as companies with women as their presidents, CEO's, board chairs, owners and co-owners.

South Bend Tribune

OPEN ARMS SUPPORTERS



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Cathy Lambert, ACSW, CCSW
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South Bend, IN 46617
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FAX (219) 232-4561

Watch your thoughts, they become words
Watch your words, they become actions
Watch your actions, they become habits
Watch your habits, they become character
Watch your character, *it becomes your destiny...*

November 1995

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
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12 Open Arms Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Sunday Brunch 11:30 a.m.	13	14 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	15 Reservations due for Third Fri. Out	16	17 Third Friday Out 7:00 p.m.	18																																										
19	20	21 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	22	23	24	25																																										
26 PFLAG Meeting 2:00-4:00 p.m.	27	28 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	29	30	December <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
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Make checks payable to Open Arms and mail it to:
Open Arms, P.O. 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546

MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the December *Open Arms* is November 10th. Submissions can be mailed to Open Arms, P. O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or given to Sheree or Kaye. Submissions received after November 10th may not be published in the December newsletter.

Newsletter meeting: Sunday, November 12th, 1995, at 6:30p.m. Call 271-0338 for directions.